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BARKER AND BARKER TALK TOBACCO

Great Gathering of Farmers
and Longview Agreement
Is Read.

MEETING QUICKLY OVER

And a General Mass Meeting
Is Held and Chas. E. Bar-
ker Addresses It.

The meeting following the Hop-
kinsville conference, which met at
the court house Saturday, found it-
self with but little to do.

Dr. John P. Bell called the meet-
ing to order and asked that the
agreement entered into be read,
which was done. He further stated
that the Longview conferees had
agreed with Manager Ewing that
there would be no discussion of the
agreement.

Dr. J. L. Barker, county chairman,
was nominated for chairman but de-
clined to serve and Dr. Bell contin-
ued to act as chairman without objec-
tion.

A call was made upon Mr. Chas.
E. Barker to speak and Mr. Barker
came forward and said that since an
agreement had been made that no
speeches would be made to the
meeting called, he would submit to
the agreement and not make a
speech.

Thereupon the meeting adjourned.
The large audience, which packed
the court room to its full capacity,
was clearly not satisfied, as the
agreement which had been read was
not construed by all alike and the
farmers were anxious to hear it dis-
cussed.

The people retained their seats
and there were renewed calls for
Mr. Barker to address the mass
meeting that followed close upon the
tobacco meeting.

Mr. Barker finally responded to
the call and took the ground that
the Longview agreement could af-
ford only temporary relief, since the
system itself was wrong and did not
protect all members alike. He said
he intended to be entirely respectful
to his nephew, Chairman Barker,
and to General Manager Ewing and
to loyally submit as a member of the
association to its orders while he
was a member, even to the extent
of rolling his tobacco into the river
if ordered to do so. His crop of
1908 would go the regular course,
but he had a right as an interested
party to criticize the system that
was ruining the people.

The resolution at Longview, which
had been published, represented his
views. He did not want to destroy
the association, but to reform it.

He said personal charges of graft
and corruption against him publish-
ed in "an infamous sheet" would
not be noticed. He was satisfied
that neither Dr. Barker nor Mr.
Ewing had anything to do with this
mudslinging.

The article from the Farmers'
Home Journal, severely criticising
the association's management, writ-
ten by Mr. Barker was read, which
is published in part herewith:

Conditions in Black Patch.

In 1904, '05 and '06 we cut out a
crop. We had an advance in price

as the law of supply and demand ac-
cords. In 1907, though we professed
to be restricting acreage, we grew a
full crop of poor tobacco. Then our
officials went wild—and while night
riding, in its most hideous hellish-
ness was in the saddle, booted and
spurred and winked at by many of
our best citizens, conducting threats,
dynamiting, arson, murder, assassina-
tion—the executive committee
made a price list of the 1907 crop of
tobacco, commencing at \$7 for trash
lugs and going to \$25 for fancy
wrappers, and swore and bedamned
that the trust should pay it. Well,
we "boys in the furrows" thought
that the millennium had surely come,
that we would beat that Trust Bus-
ter at Washington, and you can im-
agine our chagrin when we found
out that the whole face of the earth
was planting tobacco. They had
heard about our cutting out a crop,
that lugs were to sell for 7 to 11
cents and that they could get into
the game and without being handi-
capped by any association. The re-
sult was that they competed with us
so thick and fast that Spain, who
usually takes 20,000 hogsheds of
our lowest grades, on account of
these prohibitive prices, went around
us to the Island of Java and bought
11,000 hogsheds and left us with the
bag to hold. Bremen, who is one of
our most desirable customers, and
really the only open European mar-
ket we have, was very shy about
buying at these high prices, but be-
ing doubly assured by the associa-
tion that the list of prices should not
be varied from, came in and bought
freely at from 9 to 14 cents. When
she had been pretty well loaded up,
our association saw we had still too
large a stock on hand, that the year
was passing rapidly and our farmers
were getting more and more insis-
tent to sell. That something had to
be done, they had said the prices
should not be cut, then the only
thing they could do was to lower the
grades. "Now you see it and now
you don't," six of one and half doz-
en of the other. So down went the
grades, and now a few competitors
of Bremen and Italy who had bought
very sparingly up to this time came
in. The association looks over the
regarding, sell tobacco that had cost
Bremen from 9 to 14 at an average
of \$8.25. She throws out hundreds
of hogsheds that she accepted in
1905 at \$8.85 and it is regraded and
sold to the American Snuff Co. at
\$7.25. Splendid good tobacco, Amer-
ican Snuff Co. sees 'tis time for her
to come in and last week she took
over 350 hogsheds half leaf and half
lugs, and this tobacco to be deliver-
ed from Hopkinsville and my little
town Pembroke, at \$5.75, breaking
the camel's back and putting out of
business the old "has been" who al-
ways harks back to 1903.

Never since there has been a to-
bacco market in the "Black Patch"
have the monopolies, Trust and Re-
gie contractors, bought tobacco as
cheap, or as satisfactorily, as they
are now doing from the Dark To-
bacco Growers Association. This
private system of selling tobacco, is
the most pernicious that could be
adopted. Why should a man furnish
the labor and money to produce a
crop and turn it over to anybody to
sell without his knowledge as to
time, price or its condition. Why
put the temptation before any man
to take out the bargains from a lot
of samples and turn them over to a
confederate. Why select a lot of
farmers to grade tobacco who do
not know anything about types or
markets or demands? Why make a
poor man borrow money in order
that a rich one may have an associa-
tion? Why have the poor man deny
his family the necessities of life, his
children an education, (this is being

done in 25 per cent of this commu-
nity), and any social advantages,
that we may have a \$100,000 per year
executive committee on a system
that it itself does not understand.
Why make the tenant renter and
small land owner cut down his crop
that every adjoining and distant
community or territory may grow
tobacco to compete with us in a
market that we inherited from our
forefathers?

I am not opposed to pooling or as-
sociations among farmers. On the
contrary I am more and more im-
pressed with the necessity for con-
cert of action, but let that be done
by sensible, practical men, who have
the best interest of the producer at
heart regardless of prizing houses,
warehouses, committee or salaried
officials.

Turning next to the conference
agreement, the speaker said it was a
makeshift to hoodwink the farmers
and keep the same "system." He
construed the agreement to mean
that a buyer must be found for each
pool of 500,000 pounds, the associa-
tion to grade it and fix the price and
take 1 1/2 per cent. Mr. Ewing claims
the present "system" and he is wel-
come to it. It robs the farmer of any
voice in his own affairs. Let the
farmer say whether or not he will
take the price offered for his own
tobacco. (Great applause). Give the
farmer a square deal. Because we
can make a private agreement, why
leave the poor and weaker members
to their fate? He declared that he
was opposed to private deals and op-
posed to paying 1 1/2 per cent tribute
to Mr. Ewing. (Loud applause).

But the agreement has been made
and I am bound by it. "Will you
walk into my parlor said the spider
to the fly," and they walked. Why
cannot farmers manage their own
association? They have their own
institutes. Why not let the institute
work all be done at Guthrie?

Dr. J. L. Barker was then called,
but declined to make a speech, say-
ing he was only disappointed that
there should be any lack of complete
harmony in the meeting. That the
agreement had been accepted as
satisfactory by everybody concerned
excepting his uncle.

There were calls for other speakers
but none responded and the second
meeting adjourned with no action
of any kind having been taken to
approve or disapprove the agreement.

The agreement is susceptible of
more than one construction, but the
concensus of opinion, which is con-
curred in by several lawyers, includ-
ing Judge W. T. Fowler, the associa-
tion's legal adviser, is that any buy-
er who agrees to buy 500,000 pounds
of tobacco is a qualified buyer and a
grader will be furnished and he can
buy any and all association tobacco
of the several types named in the
agreement, practically all classes ex-
cept some low grades.

The following buyers have al-
ready bought 500,000 pounds or
more of association tobacco this
season and are therefore qualified
buyers of crops when graded:

Imperial Tobacco Co.
Thomas Hodge & Co.
W. S. Matthews & Co.
W. W. Bradley for Gallagher.
C. D. Campbell, Louisville.
Head & Co., Madisonville.
Noworthy & Argue, Henderson.
Arthur Jarvis, Henderson.
Vaughan & Co., Owensboro.
American Snuff Co.
Regie Company.

The last two are temporarily dis-
qualified under the proviso that to-
bacco cannot be bought that comes
in contact with the old crop on hand.

This construction makes Hopk-
insville practically an open market for
the sale of association tobacco in
loose leaf from the wagon.

Cut His Wife

Cleveland Cowherd cut his wife
on the arm with a knife Saturday
night and will have his examining
trial before Judge Brasher this
morning at 10 o'clock.

Own a Home

DON'T PAY RENT

For sale at a bargain: A beauti-
ful new home on one of the best
corner lots in the city. Also a mod-
ern up-to-date house on East Ninth
street. Call on Planters Bank and
Trust Co.

LETTER FROM EGYPT

Written By a Former Citizen
of Christian County, Now
in Alexandria.

Mr. Geo. V. Donnell, formerly of
this county, is now in business in
Alexandria, Egypt, and wrote the
following letter Christmas to the
Lebanon, Tenn., Democrat, at which
place his family now resides:

"Perhaps a description of a Christ-
mas in Egypt, as it appears to one
who has never known anything ex-
cept American Christmases may
prove of interest to some of your
readers.

In the first place there is no regard
paid to the orthodox Christmas
weather as viewed from the stand-
point of a Middle Tennessee boy.
Snow is a thing unknown and ice is
only to be had of a dealer.

In the fields cabbage, onions,
squash, radishes, beans, etc., are
growing, while the public parks and
private gardens present a most gor-
geous display of beautiful flowers in
full bloom.

December 25, except for a dis-
agreeable drizzling rain in the early
morning, was an ideal spring day.

An American Santa Claus would
experience no difficulty in filling his
pack from the shops of Alexandria
merchants, though some of the ar-
ticles would differ slightly from
those of his native land owing to the
fact that many of the toys are made
by hand.

"Some things he would not find at
all for there is something else be-
sides a dearth of snow and ice that
would make the Alexandria Christ-
mas a failure for the Tennessee boy
—the complete absence of fire works
of every description. No cannon
crackers, no torpedoes, no pop
sticks, no Roman candles, no toy
pistols—no accidents.

"Think of it, a Christmas without
those familiar noises.

"There is scarcely any effort made
by the native Egyptian parent to
provide entertainment for his chil-
dren. Being a supremely selfish in-
dividual he attends to his own
amusement and leaves the children
to do likewise.

With rare exceptions Santa Claus
only visits the children of the En-
glish and Americans, the exception
being the native Christian.

"It is sad to know that this land
so intimately associated with the
early history of the Israelites and so
near to the birthplace of the Christ
child, that the anniversary of his
birth—the giving of the greatest
gift to man—is not universally ob-
served. In a way the day was quite
generally observed, as a holiday,
but not as a time of good cheer as
in America, it was simply a cessa-
tion from labor."

The stores of Alexandria present
much the same attractions for pros-
pective present buyers as those of
the United States, and the night be-
fore Christmas they were over run
with good natured shoppers elbowing
through the crowd to see the display
or perchance make a purchase.

The unfortunates are remembered
here as in America and charity
reaches out a helping hand to light-
en the burdens of the afflicted. The
children at the school for the blind
were made to forget for a time the
darkness of their long night in the
enjoyment of a bountiful dinner
furnished by some of the good la-
dies of the city.

Let us hope that the day is not far
distant when the Islam children will
join the great throng of Christian
children in commemorating the
great event—the birth of Christ.

G. V. D.

Alexandria, Egypt, Dec. 27, 1908.

Rev. C. B. Waller.

Rev. C. B. Waller, of Chattano-
oga, will visit the city this week and
will preach at the prayer meeting
service at the Baptist church tomor-
row night.

Fine Harness Horse.

J. M. Carter sold a fine harness
horse to Arthur B. Lander, of New-
stead, one day last week. The price
paid was \$300.

At Cost!

All Woolen Dress Goods
at New York Cost!

Reductions on All
Muslin Underwear!

Come and Get Choice.

T. M. Jones

Main Street.

Hopkinsville, Ky.

Hints to Farmers

Now is the time that you
realize on your season's
work.

As you sell your tobacco,
stock or produce, place your
money on open account with
a reliable bank.

Pay your bills by check,
which makes the best kind
of a receipt, and avoid the
worry and danger attending
the carrying of large sums
of money.

Our offices are always at
the disposal of our custo-
mers and country friends.

Bank of Hopkinsville.

E. B. LONG, President. JNO. B. TRICE, Vice-president.
W. T. TANDY, Cashier.

CITY BANK

Capital, \$60,000.00
Surplus, \$75,000.00

This Bank ranks among the first in the state of Ken-
tucky in proportion of surplus to capital.

In Surplus there is Strength.

We invite your account as a safe depository for
your funds. Deposit your valuable papers in our
vault—safe from fire and burglars.

3 PER CENT. INTEREST ON TIME DEPOSITS

J. F. GARNETT, Pres. A. H. ECKLES, Cashier.
T. J. McREYNOLDS, V. P. F. W. DABNEY, V. P.

PLANTERS BANK & TRUST CO.

CAPITAL \$100,000.00.
SURPLUS AND PROFITS \$20,000.00

Thoroughly equipped for Banking and Trustee Business.
Open an account and let us show you.
Loans and Investments made.
Acts as Adm'r. Extr. Trustee, Guardian, Agent, Receiver, etc.
Buys and sells Real Estate, and Manages Property.
Safe Fire and Burglar proof vaults.

3 Per Cent. Interest on Time Certificates.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

HOPKINSVILLE - - KENTUCKY.

UNITED STATES DEPOSITARY

Only National Bank in This Community

Capital \$75,000.00
Surplus 25,000.00
Stockholders' Liability 75,000.00

HAS A REGULAR SAVINGS DEPARTMENT

Three Per Cent Interest Paid on Savings and Time Deposits